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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 02562-85  
17 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Robert D. Vickers, Jr.  
National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT: Mexico and Central America

1. On 16 May 1985, I attended a session of the Council on Foreign Relations to hear a presentation by Manuel Camacho, the Mexican Undersecretary of Planning and Budget, on Mexican policy toward Central America. A list of other attendees is attached.

2. Mr. Camacho made it clear that Mexican policy toward the region was geared toward preventing US military intervention in Nicaragua, which he said would cause serious internal problems in Mexico by polarizing the population and upsetting the national consensus achieved by the PRI to maintain stability. He added that he believed the situation has reached a real danger point, and that either further US military pressures or increased Soviet/Cuban involvement could lead to a major confrontation. Thus Mexico was urging the US to resume a dialogue with Nicaragua and telling the Sandinistas that Ortega's visit to Moscow was a mistake and that any further arms deliveries or increased Cuban presence were undesirable.

3. Mr. Camacho added that he believed US pressure had placed the Sandinistas at a serious crossroad, where they could choose to align more closely with the Soviet Bloc or turn away from the Cuban pattern and perhaps be more supportive of political pluralism and private enterprise. He said that [redacted] Castro told Ortega in January not to follow the Cuban model, but that Ortega responded that the US was determined to overthrow him and that he had little choice but to turn to the Soviets for increased support.

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4. Mr. Camacho concluded by saying that the US should not link Mexican policy toward Central America to overall bilateral relations, and that any attempt to pressure Mexico to change its policy would provoke a nationalistic reaction. He stated that if it looked like no peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan problem was possible, either through Contadora or in bilateral US-Nicaraguan talks, Mexico would back off from its heavy involvement in mediation efforts and adopt a low posture on Nicaragua so as not to risk a policy setback.



Robert D. Vickers

cc: DCI  
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C/NIC  
VC/NIC  
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~~COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, INC~~

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COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Study Group on Central America

Seventh Meeting

May 16, 1985

Manuel Camacho, Discussion Leader - Undersecretary of <sup>Planning</sup>~~Programming~~  
and Budget, Mexico

Rodman Rockefeller, Commentator - Pocantico Development Association

Edward K. Hamilton, Chairman - Hamilton Rabinovitz & Szanton

- Susan Kaufman Purcell, Group Director - Council on Foreign Relations

Lacey Gallagher, Rapporteur - Council on Foreign Relations

Guest

Juan Enriquez - Harvard University

Christopher Kennan - Office of David Rockefeller

David Mark - ALCOA Corporation

○ Eusebio Mujal Leon - Georgetown University

Alan Stoga - Kissinger Associates

David L. Aaron - Research Development Inc.

Kevin Corrigan - Chase Manhattan Bank

James Greene - Monmouth College

Craig Johnstone - Department of State

Margaret Daly Hayes - Americas Society

Robert Leiken - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Theodore H. Moran - Georgetown University

Cesar Sereseres - Department of State

L. Ronald Scheman - Coudert Brothers

Viron P. Vaky - Georgetown University

Robert Vickers - National Intelligence Officer